

Proposal for the City of Rockville to be a sponsor of Winners Take All Family Reading Program

The Rockville Friends of the Library, Library Staff, and Fred and Peggy Bowen have started planning for a very interesting program that will bring kids, parents, and community leaders together to share a book, meet the author, and talk with each other about important issues in the story and in their lives. It's called the **Winners Take All Family Read** and it's based on Fred Bowen's book *Winners Take All*. It's a baseball story about a good kid who gets tangled up in a cheating scandal, and it raises issues about keeping secrets, making excuses, and trying to do the right thing. This program has been sponsored at schools in Maryland and Virginia and gets rave reviews. The story always triggers lively debates, and parents are often surprised how thoughtful (or not) their kids can be. We would now like to offer this program at the Rockville Library.

Fred Bowen is a local author and he writes the weekly sports column for kids in *The Washington Post*. He is waiving his fee for us! Most importantly, he is a very interesting and entertaining speaker.

How does it work:

Everyone gets the book on his or her own and reads it ahead of time. Then we gather together at the Book Discussion Event to talk about it with the author and each other. More information is at <http://www.fredbowen.com/wtacr.htm>

When and Where will the Book Discussion Event be:

Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10:30 am – 11:30 am at the Rockville Library.

Who is it for:

Children ages 8+, the parents, and community leaders.

Why Winners Take All is a good book-choice:

- It's a suspenseful baseball story that keeps everyone turning the pages – yes, even grownups.
- It has broad appeal; it pulls in lots of boys and dads, yet girls and moms like it too.
- It raises interesting issues about the snowballing effect of bad decisions, the problems with secrets, the ups and downs of friendship and more.

Benefits:

- Inspires families to read together more.
- Gets everybody to slow down and talk with each other about big issues and enjoy the experience of doing so.
- Gives people the unusual chance to discuss a book with the author.

What do we want Rockville to do?

- Promote this event in the Rockville Reports.
- Place flyers for the program in the lobby of City Hall
- If we have enough lead time, place in the Rockville Recreation Guide